


BOOK REVIEWS

 Ana Betty Haoa Rapahango and William Liller, 1996. *Speak Rapanui! ¡Hable Rapanui! La Lengua de Isla de Pascua*. Softbound, 133 pages. Easter Island Foundation, ISBN 1-880636-03-4, \$12. Order from Easter Island Foundation, 666 Dead Cat Alley, Woodland CA 95695, USA.

Review by Steven Roger Fischer

“‘*Iorana! Pehe koe? Rivariva!*’” (“Hello! How are you? Fine!”)

What a thrill to be able to speak Rapanui. And now you yourself can learn it at last—right in your very own *hare* ‘home, house’ with the friendly assistance of the delightful booklet *Speak Rapanui!* It’s the brand-new Rapanui language primer by Betty Haoa and Bill Liller of the Biblioteca William Mulloy in Viña del Mar, Chile, and profits from its sale will go to the Easter Island Foundation to promote the study of the Rapanui culture and the preservation of Easter Island’s physical patrimony.

Let me tell you straight off: the “Little Red Book” is sheer fun. Its design, by Tamara Liller and Alan Drake is brilliant. Even the *manu piri* double-bird figure that adorns the front cover proclaims what the marvelous little primer is all about: everything in it is double, with English on each left-hand page and Spanish on each right-hand page...

And pure Rapanui ‘*i te kōna ananake*’ ‘everywhere’. *Speak Rapanui!* is simple, informative, and entertainingly illustrated. The text is plainly written, the language examples are legion and easy to understand, there is a minimum of old-fashioned grammar and a maximum of enjoyment. The learner progresses from general observations about the Rapanui language to common words and phrases and helpful word lists. At the end, a handy bibliography points out the most useful and informative books and articles on the Rapanui language and mentions international periodicals dedicated to Polynesian language studies.

Speak Rapanui! is intended for the beginner, the tourist, the Rapanuiphile who wants that first thrilling plunge into the exhilarating pool of the *vananga Rapanui* (“Rapanui language”). It’s the modern, living language that *Speak Rapanui!* offers. For example:

To your health!	<i>Manuíá!</i>
Thank you	<i>Maururu</i>
I love you	<i>He mate au kia kóe</i>
It’s okay	<i>Ti tika á</i>

Nearly all significant accents are shown using an accent mark, so that you’ll have no problem placing the correct sentence or word stress. In order to achieve this, a linguistically more “proper” orthography has been dispensed with (for example, *Ti tika á* for *Titika* ‘á’). The presentation of grammar and the orthography—the booklet ignores most glottal stops and all vowel lengths, such as ‘ā—follow the 1930s and 1950s models of Sebastian Englert and Jordi Fuentes. Sure, a bit antiquated according to modern linguistics. But it simplifies the difficult task tremendously.


You can learn Rapanui with it, and quickly too.

You learn about “Structures”: the *hare* ‘house’, the *man-avai* ‘circular structure used to shelter plants’, the *tupa* [tūpa] ‘hollow stone structure 2-3 meters tall’. You get to know “Places”: the *ana* [‘ana] ‘cave’, the *hanga* ‘harbor, bay’, the *maunga* [ma‘unga] ‘hill, mountain’, the *rano* ‘lake, crater’. “For Nature Lovers” tells us of the *makohe* ‘frigate bird’, the *moa* ‘chicken’, the *paihenga* ‘dog’, the *miro* ‘tree, wood’, the *moko* ‘lizard’. Similar word lists, from pages 56 to 119 offer useful and historical artifacts, common nouns, persons, titles, time, weather, food and drink, transportation, and a host of other categories that will quickly submerge you in the Rapanui world...and in the Rapanui tongue. —

Ku hanga ‘ā au mo oho ki ‘a Rapa Nui (“I want to go to Rapanui”).

Now all of us can. Like never before.

With *Speak Rapanui! ¡Hable Rapanui!*

 David Stanley, 1966. *Fiji Islands Handbook*, Fourth Edition. Moon Publications. Softcover, 263 pages. ISBN 1-56691-038-2. \$13.95. Order from Moon Travel Handbooks, PO Box 3040, Chico, CA 95927; email: travel@moon.com

Review by Kay Kenady Sanger

Writing a guidebook about Fiji, a country with 322 inhabited islands scattered across 1,290,000 square kilometers of the South Pacific is not exactly a breeze. The place is home to seven ethnic groups with separate cultural traditions, dozens of accommodations from swank to dank, and a long list of appealing attractions that can change with the whim of a strong hurricane. The trick is to equip the traveler with plenty of necessary information while taking care to create a volume that is not too big to stuff in a backpack.

David Stanley’s *Fiji Islands Handbook* will probably accompany many a Fiji-bound traveler, since it manages to deliver hundreds of useful details in a compact 5x7 format. Stanley gains a reader’s confidence right up front by requesting current information in an interactive section entitled “Is this book out of date?” As Stanley explains, travel writing is a little like trying to take a picture out of the side of a bus—things change fast.

That said, Stanley presents a list of each and every hotel in the country with prices and useful notes about each one that make it sound like he or a responsive reader actually stayed at all of these places. Neither of the other two Fiji guidebooks consulted by this reviewer were so complete or so honest. For example, Stanley lets readers know which hotel has a pounding disco next door and which of the hostel restaurants is owned by the best fisherman around. Restaurants, bars, nightclubs, and even public toilets and dental clinics are detailed for each island. Thirty-eight maps help readers find these spots.

Up-front sections on history and government, people, and customs should be required reading before a visit to Fiji. For example, Stanley explains Fiji’s strict dress code, warning readers that wearing short shorts or a bathing suit anywhere

but at the tourist resorts is considered offensive. Also in the up-front sections, those who have been to Easter Island may be interested in reading about where they can go to enjoy a meal of fish and sweet potatoes prepared in the Fiji version of an "umu" underground oven, called a "Iovo." Indeed, no stone has been left unturned by the author as he describes traditional customs.

This front-of-the-book section also has a pronunciation guide that will save travelers from the embarrassment of pronouncing the "n" in Nandi (should be Nadi) and the "th" in Thithia (should be Cicia). Stanley's list of toiletries and a medical kit to take to Fiji would be useful for travelers to other South Pacific Islands as well.

The second half of the book takes readers on an island-by-island journey across Fiji, detailing the sights, services, entertainment, accommodations and restaurants available. This book is so different from the usual brochure drivel about visits to a "South Seas paradise" that the reader feels an instant trust in the information. For example, how many guidebooks would warn us that at the Century Cinema in Suva "rats run freely beneath the seats as soon as the lights go out"?

Stanley encourages visitors to stay in villages if possible, rather than just relaxing on the beach at expensive resorts. After all, R&R can take place in a spot where the culture isn't so accessible and interesting. In Fiji, visitors have a chance to encounter Polynesians, Micronesians, East Indians, Chinese, and Europeans; and each have their own rituals and customs to be respected.

As one who has been embarrassed by ignorant American tourists in the past, this reviewer was pleased to see that Stanley takes every opportunity in the book to explain, admonish, and suggest acceptable way to behave with each of these groups. For example, Stanley reminds those who visit traditional Fijians to ask permission before entering a village and to take off their hats while there because only the chief is allowed to wear one. He also suggest that visitors carry bundles of *kava* roots to present to their hosts and to prepare a speech about why they are visiting. Since English is a second official language in Fiji, readers of this English book shouldn't have any problems speaking with the locals.

A seven-page "Resources" section at the end of the book suggests references on natural science, history and social science of Fiji, as well as other Pacific issues.

In short, the *Fiji Islands Handbook* is a compact, useful guide for the visitor who wants to learn about the people of Fiji and to experience its traditional life. Fiji is presented in colorful detail as an intriguing cultural crossroads of the Pacific.

Correction: The book review of *Easter Island: The Endless Enigma*, reviewed by Dan Gartner (RNJ 10:2, pg 49) incorrectly identified the author of the book as José Luis Velasco; The author's name is José Luis Rosasco. We regret the confusion.

David Stanley, 1996. *South Pacific Handbook*, 6th Edition. Softcover, 906 pages. ISBN 1-56691-040-4. \$22.95. Order from Moon Travel Handbooks, PO Box 3040, Chico, CA 95927; Email: travel@moon.com

Review by Georgia Lee

Stanley's definitive guide is divided into three parts: the Introduction (117 pages) provides information on flora and fauna, history, governments, health precautions, climate, etc., in great detail; the second portion (380 pages) covers Polynesia and includes Tahiti-Polynesia (Australis, Tuamotus, Gambiers, Marquesas); Pitcairn, Easter Island, Cooks, Niue, Tonga, the Samoas, Tokelau, Wallis and Futuna and Tuvalu. The third section (359 pages) includes the islands of Melanesia: Fiji, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, and the Solomons.

Information offices and resources are listed in the Appendix, as are literary sources and references. There is a four-page Glossary and detailed Index. Illustrations include 16 full-color pages of photographs and 143 maps. The text is liberally sprinkled with line drawings and black and white photographs.

Stanley's guides are, quite simply, the best you can buy. It is the travel book of choice for us, and is used as a general reference even when not traveling. Whatever you want to know about this portion of the South Pacific, it will be found in this book. Traveling anonymously, Stanley pays his own way and thus experiences the islands, hotels and restaurants as they are—and as you and I might encounter them. This is travel writing as it should be.

RECORDINGS

A newly issued compact disk features recordings made on Rapa Nui in 1995 by Jörg Hertel (Brockhausstr.52, 04229 Leipzig, Germany). Titled "Rapa Nui," the disk features music and natural sounds, including parts of the Catholic Mass and "atmosphere" of the Tapati festival. Also listed are background sounds such as gurgling water and birds of Motu Nui, and the surf at Tahai. This album is released by Noiseworks Rec./Noiselab; PO Box 310 D; 09028 Chemnitz, Germany, and is said to be available also on the island. Total time: 74:20 minutes. Price is US\$20 or 25 D Marks. A second CD will appear later this year. Mr Hertel also has a book pending.

CONFERENCES

• **Third Conference of European Society for Oceanists** is slated for 13-15 December, 1996 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The European Society for Oceanists (ESO) has issued a call for papers for its third conference titled "Pacific Peoples in the Pacific Century: Society, Culture and Nature". Abstracts should be submitted by September 1st, 1996 to: Bente Wolff, Institute of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen, Frederiksholms Kanal 4, DK-1220, Copenhagen K, Denmark. Fax: 45 35323456 or email:

esbw@palais.natmus.min.dk